

April 16, 1975

SENATOR F. LEWIS: You damn right.

CLERK: Legislative Resolution #29. It is found on Page 1266 of the Legislative Journal introduced by Senator Frank Lewis of the 45th District. Read.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, there is no question that the outgrowth of this resolution hinges on the famous helmet bill and the emergency rescue bill and others and others and others and others. In discussing this issue with members of other legislatures from other parts of the country, I think each of them feels that the legislative responsibility that fully rests with this body and others like it across this great country has totally been usurped by the federal government. I think all of us know the issue we voted on yesterday. I think all of us know why that issue passed. It had nothing to do with the substance nor the concern of many members of this Legislature. I predict, and you have seen it happen in the last four or five years, that this is going to be a constant practice until somebody says, hey, wait a minute. I think that our federal officials, our members of the congressional delegations are not fully representing the people of this state until they reassert, until they reassert the prerogatives of this state. They are there to represent us and not to dictate to this legislative body. The Resolution does not solve the problem. I believe that it is the first step that we need to take in letting our displeasure be known that we do not approve of a system that mandates and assumes state responsibility which we have legally and constitutionally been empowered to do. So I think we pass the Resolution. Then I hope that we say, all right, we have told you. Now you people in the Congress that represent us, or supposedly represent us, we don't approve of this matter. It is in violation of the principles of federal government and you do something about it and then we do something about it. I am hopeful, I am hopeful that we return to our senses of sanity and reject the helmet bill as it moves across the floor and then when it does and if they want to cut off the funds, then I am in favor of us pursuing every available judicial tool available to us, to say that you cannot cut off legitimate funds to this state, by any kind of mandate, rule and regulation made by any of your bureaucrats, wherever they are. I don't want to take a lot of time. I think you understand the direction of my Resolution. I think you understand the purpose that we want to accomplish. I would hope that you would adopt it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, colleagues, I know that this is an important Resolution and I know that it is offered in good faith by Senator Lewis. I don't think that much further can be said that will cast enlightenment on the subject. That further discussion, questions will not illuminate the issue any further. Considering the great number of bills that we have on General File to be considered, I move the previous question.